

The Warren Report: did they bungle the assassination probe?

The House Assassinations Committee thought that President Kennedy might have been struck as early as frame 200, that is to say almost two full seconds (31 frames) before the time when Governor Connally was still holding the hat. Third, both Governor Connally and his wife (who was beside him) are absolutely positive that the governor was struck by a different bullet than the one that struck the president in the back, and I think the Warren Commission had no valid grounds for rejecting their unshakable and authoritative assertions.

The Assassinations Committee found that the President probably was hit by frame 207 or possibly as early as frame 200. On the other hand, Governor Connally could not have been struck prior to frame 231 (where he still had his hat in hand) and may not have been struck until as late as frames 234-236. Thus, if the Connallys are wrong, there would be an absurdly long interval of at least one and two-thirds seconds (31 frames) from the time the president first reacted to his injury until the time Governor Connally first reacted to his much more serious injury from the same bullet.

Did the Warren Commission, the FBI and the CIA do an adequate job of investigating the assassination of President Kennedy? No. Both the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence in 1976 and the House Assassinations Committee in 1979, after due consideration, concluded that the Warren Commission, the FBI and the CIA had all failed to perform adequately with respect to their inquiries into the assassination of President Kennedy. Leads were not pursued, evidence was destroyed, overlooked or ignored and in various other ways these three agencies bungled the most important investigation of the century.

The Warren Commission failed because (1) from the Commission's inception, and without first having examined the evidence, the members had made up their minds that there had been but a single gunman and that the assassination had not been the result of

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inspiration; (2) the Commission had adequate staff of independent investigators and hence relied principally on the FBI and the Secret Service carry out investigative duties; (3) the Commission was not given sufficient time to do an adequate job (the final report of the Commission was published 11 months after the assassination); and (4) the Commission was misled by important needed information. For example, it was never told of the Mafia plots to kill Castro that persisted throughout the mid-1960s). Both the FBI and the CIA refrained from thoroughly investigating the assassination because they desired to suppress embarrassing or national security information from the public because they wanted to project a false image of incorruptible and trustworthy infallibility to the world.

Thus, incredibly neither FBI Director Hoover nor CIA Deputy Director Helms bothered to tell the Warren Commission of the CIA-sponsored assassination plots against Castro or other foreign leaders.

The FBI investigation of Lee Harvey Oswald was purposely kept narrow in scope. Within three weeks of the assassination the FBI leaked news stories that Oswald was the sole assassin, thus rendering it impossible for the Warren Commission to reach a different conclusion without seeming to criticize the then untarnished FBI and its powerful director. FBI Director Hoover treated the Warren Commission as a hostile nuisance, and even gathered (and presumably disseminated) derogatory information on the Commission and its staff. The CIA assumed a stance of lofty distance and declined to provide certain vital

information; such information it did provide was furnished only on specific request; and all disclosures of information were purposely delayed as long as possible.

Was the Secret Service negligent in protecting President Kennedy on November 22, 1963? Yes. The deficiencies in the job performed by the Secret Service on the day of the assassination were both shocking and out of the ordinary.

First, the Secret Service had failed to adequately check for persons in the Dallas area dangerous to the president. Second, the Secret Service failed to protect the president from the dangers posed by windows in tall buildings, even though it was standard practice to do so when the presidential motorcade was to travel on a frequently used parade route, as the Dallas route was. Third, in violation of regulations, some

of the Secret Service agents assigned to protect the president in Dallas stayed out drinking until dawn on the day of the assassination. This is undoubtedly one of the reasons why at the time of the gunfire many of the agents reacted tardily or sluggishly. Fourth, the agents in the limousine with President Kennedy failed to accelerate or push promptly once the shooting had begun, and also failed to push down or shield the president with their bodies, all in violation of regulations.

By contrast, Vice President Johnson's Secret Service agents responded immediately; one of them had pushed the vice president down and covered him with the agent's body before President Kennedy received his fatal head wound. If the president's guards had acted with the alacrity of the vice president's, the president probably would have not been killed.

Finally, and most alarmingly, the House Assassinations Committee discovered that the specific security precautions arranged for the Dallas motorcade by the Secret Service were so strangely inadequate on Nov. 22 that

the motorcade in which the President was killed was "uniquely insecure" and far inferior to the security provided only the day before when the president was in Houston, a much less dangerous place.

Did Senator Richard Russell publicly attack some of the findings of the Warren Commission? Yes. Georgia's beloved Richard Russell was a member of the Warren Commission. In 1970, about a year before his death, Senator Russell revealed to the media that "he

never believed that Lee Harvey Oswald assassinated President Kennedy without at least some encouragement from others." (There is also reason to believe that early reservations Senator Russell had about certain of the findings of the Warren Commission were deleted without his knowledge from the final version of the Commission's report.)

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*all criticism of Soviet
system made earlier by
others; we unfair/nd
unjustified*